

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF YORK
YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA

Resolution

At a regular meeting of the York County Board of Supervisors held in the Board Room, York Hall, Yorktown, Virginia, on the ____ day of ____, 2002:

Present

Vote

Donald E. Wiggins, Chairman
Walter C. Zaremba, Vice Chairman
Sheila S. Noll
James S. Burgett
Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr.

On motion of _____, which carried ____, the following resolution was adopted:

A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO
APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE ENVIRONMEN-
TALLY-HAZARDOUS JAMES RIVER RESERVE FLEET

WHEREAS, The James River Reserve Fleet, commonly known as the Ghost Fleet, is moored on the James River near Fort Eustis; and

WHEREAS, the Reserve Fleet consists of 97 ships, 71 of which the United States Maritime Administration considers obsolete and has scheduled to be scrapped; and

WHEREAS, the Reserve Fleet holds 7.7 million gallons of oils and fuels according to the latest government estimates, a quantity slightly less than the quantity of oil the Exxon Valdez spilled off the shores of Alaska in 1989; and

WHEREAS, the Reserve Fleet poses a serious and increasing environmental threat to the Hampton Roads region according to a 2002 report created for the United States Maritime Administration, and a serious oil and/or gas spill from the decaying ships is no longer a mere possibility but a probability; and

WHEREAS, a large oil gas leak would heavily pollute the waters, shores, beaches, and wetlands of Newport News, and other jurisdictions approximate to the James River, causing hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars in environmental damage; and

WHEREAS, oil has leaked from the Reserve Fleet on several occasions since 1998; and while these small leaks have not left lasting environmental damage, they have cost approximately \$2 million to clean up; and

WHEREAS, the environmental risk is heightened by the threat of storm or hurricane related damage that could cause the release of toxic and hazardous materials into the water and onto the shores of Newport News, Hampton, James City County, Isle of Wight County, Suffolk, and other coastal communities in Hampton Roads and along the banks of the James River; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has recognized that the James River Reserve Fleet poses an ecological and economic threat to the Hampton Roads Region and has ordered the Maritime Administration to remove the fleet by 2006; the cost to remove the obsolete vessels from the Reserve Fleet, to date, has been estimated at \$177 million;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the York County Board of Supervisors this _____ day of _____, 2002, that it hereby urges Congress to appropriate the necessary funds for the removal of obsolete, and environmentally-hazardous vessels from the James River Reserve Fleet, in order to protect the waters, shores, beaches, and wetlands of Newport News and the other jurisdictions approximate to the James River from ecological disaster.